

CHINA BULLETIN

of the
FAR EASTERN OFFICE
Division of Foreign Missions, NCCC/USA
156 - 5th Avenue, New York 10.

VOL. VIII. No. 7

April 7, 1958

Francis P. Jones, Editor

Wallace C. Merwin, Executive Secretary

PEKING AND SHANGHAI NEWS

From Chinese travelers visiting Macao recently the following items of news have been learned: Shanghai has had the coldest winter in 15 years. Coal has been difficult to buy, and accordingly there has been great demand for a type of small cooking stove which uses coal dust and is very economically. Church attendance is said to have dropped heavily in Shanghai during winter, not only on account of the cold, but also because of fears engendered by the anti-rightist movement.

During this anti-rightist campaign many school principals and business managers have lost their jobs. There have been few arrests, but the familiar pattern of accusation and confession has been followed up by dismissal from work and by disgrace.

The current campaign being emphasized is "Remove the Seven Pests", rats, fleas, etc. In the clean-up campaign street inspectors examine all parts of every house, including all cupboards and drawers. The regulations against bringing in money from Hong Kong are more severe than ever. Shanghai movie houses are beginning to show movies from other foreign countries besides the Soviet Union; films from Eastern Europe, including Hungary, are being shown, and even some films from Hong Kong. Peking and Shaohsing operas remain very popular.

The effort to get people away from the big cities continues. High school and college graduates are regularly sent to the villages for one or two years service before being allowed to return to anything else. One result has been an increased demand for such commodities as tinned fruits, vitamins, etc., which the educated youth like to take with them to the country.

One interesting note is that there are now strict regulations against the opening of any mail by any other person than the addressee. If government authorities wish to open any letter, they require the addressee to be present.

Many church leaders continue to have a hard time. Wang Ming-tao is said to have had a complete nervous breakdown since coming out of prison and is in pitiful condition. Mrs. Wang is also ill with tuberculosis. They are being cared for in Peking by Mrs. Wang's mother. Rev. Wang Jen-hsi, until recently pastor of the South Gate Church (CCC) in Shanghai, is one of the casualties of the anti-rightist campaign, as we have already noted in the March 3 Bulletin. He is reported now to be "unemployed", and living at home with his son.

CHURCH STATISTICS

A recent communication from Shanghai gives membership figures for a number of

published bi-weekly to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. Information from Chinese church magazines and other Chinese sources is passed on as objectively as possible, with a minimum of interpretation. When interpretation is necessary, it is enclosed in parentheses as the comment of the editor. ANNUAL RATES: Domestic, \$2.00; Overseas, Firstclass \$4.00, Secondclass \$3.00. Airmail \$5.00 in 15¢ zone, \$7.00 in 25¢ zone.

Protestant denominations. These figures are given below, with the 1949 statistics at the right for comparison:

Denomination	1957 membership	1949 membership
Church of Christ in China	120,000	176,983
True Jesus Church	110,000	125,000
Episcopal Church (Sheng Kung Hui)	40,000	76,741
Methodist (Wei-li)	40,000	102,693
Independent Church	33,000	11,564

It is to be noted that the figure given for the Episcopal Church agrees with the statement made by Presiding Bishop Robin Chen in their church paper Sacred Work. The figures for the Independent Church may not be referring to the same thing. There are two nation-wide Independent Church organizations, the Yeh-su-chiao Tzu-li-hui (Jesus Independent) and the Chi-tu-chiao Tzu-li-hui (Christ Independent.) Both Western and Chinese reporters often fail to distinguish the two. I am inclined to question the severe drop in Methodist membership. We have already reported in the Bulletin news from Foochow indicating that membership in the Foochow Conference had gone up from 18 to 21 thousand since 1949. That was in a report from the Executive Committee of the Conference to Tien Feng magazine, and should not be too far wrong. But Foochow membership is not likely to be 50% of the whole, and is more probably not more than 25%, which would double the figure given above.

It is to be noted that the two indigenous denominations have fared much better proportionately than the "imperialist" denominations.

In this connection, Bishop K. H. Ting, in an address in Hungary last fall, spoke of the Protestant churches of China as having a total membership of about 700,000.

JAPANESE DELEGATION REPORT

In the spring of 1937 a group of Japanese Christians spent a month in China, and we reported on their findings in our July 1957 Bulletin. Their report has now been published in considerable detail in a pamphlet put out by Promoting Enduring Peace, 489 Ocean Avenue, West Haven, Conn., (Dr. Jerome Davis, Executive Director.) The pamphlet also includes a reprint of Freytag's article in the International Review of Missions (See Bulletin for October 14, 1957). A price of 15¢ is put on the pamphlet, but a note adds that it is free to religious groups.

One interesting sidelight in this Japanese report is an account of a conversation between Chou En-lai and Peking YMCA Secretary Li. The Premier was very cordial and said to Mr. Li: "I received some guidance by a Christian pastor in my earlier years, and though I did not become a Christian I remember his deep love and care. If you are the General Secretary of the YMCA here I urge you to go ahead more vigorously with your work. If you need money, why don't you start a campaign? I shall be the first to give a donation for your work."

K. H. TING IN HUNGARY

We reported in the December 23 Bulletin that Bishop K. H. Ting was one of a delegation of four to visit Hungary as guests of the Hungarian Ecumenical Council. This Council puts out a mimeographed bulletin in English, the Hungarian Church Press, giving news of all the Protestant churches in Hungary. In their January 15 - February 1 number they report on a speech of greeting by Bishop Ting at the General Assembly of the Transdanubian District (Reformed Church). In this speech he told of the sorrow he had felt at the news of the revolution in Hungary, and his joy when things returned to "normal". After speaking of the many millions of people in the Communist countries he says, "In contrast to them, what do New York, London and Geneva represent? Only a tiny grouping of men who run their own countries but have lost the real aim of human life."

He expresses his appreciation for a Hungarian resolution demanding that the Chinese People's Republic be admitted into the United Nations, and then goes to comment on the World Council of Churches. This Council, he says, "does not please our Chinese Church.

they want us to become anti-socialist and anti-communist tools. If we were inclined to do that they would give us a lot of money and help us. But our loyalty must be given to God and to our motherland, and not to the World Council of Churches, which has done many things in the past years to make the Chinese church appear in wrong colors. But their actions have not harmed us, rather they have hardened our resolution to build up our church and our country."

FURTHER REPORT FROM WALMSLEY

Prof. Lewis Walmsley has an article in the March 15 United Church Observer (Canada) on "The New China". Much of it repeats what we have already reported from him in the January Bulletin. There are however a number of additional interesting sidelights. He says of Shanghai that it has 60 Catholic churches, 195 Protestant churches, 200 Buddhist temples. "A fine new Protestant church had recently been built near the hotel where I stayed."

Speaking of the great accomplishments in the field of public health, he quotes Lord Boydell, a medical man and food administrator of the United Nations, who visited China last summer. The latter asked Minister of Health Li Teh-chuang (a Christian) how they had been able to accomplish so much, and she replied, "We have sold health to the local communities, and they have taken it upon themselves to carry out these programs for the elimination of disease."

"One day I asked a friend among the intellectuals why it was that the great mass of the people had swung so agreeably behind the Communist program with so little sign of opposition. He answered simply, 'Because the Communists have given the people security and peace.'"

He concludes with a well-balanced statement: "Of course I would never subscribe to the principle that the end justifies the means. The ruthless destruction of human life, mental and physical coercion, disregard for spiritual values - these are means that no Christian can ever justify on the grounds that good is thereby achieved. Surely, as Christians we believe that there is a more effective means of bringing in a new order than this."

"In the meantime I can be glad for the measure of progress they have made, and I rejoice to see hope replacing despair, and pride in achievement replacing fatalistic apathy."

LITERACY

A conference of educational leaders from 18 provinces and cities met in Peking the first week in March, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, The Young Communist League, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the Women's Federation, and outlined plans for wiping out illiteracy in China within five years. Heilungkiang and Liaoning promise accomplishment of this goal in three years, and Kiangsu plans to reach it in four years. Shansi and six other provinces already have their plans definite for reaching the goal in five years.

Ningnan County in Heilungkiang claims to have already wiped out illiteracy and now hopes to raise the educational level of the county to primary school graduation within three years. Chekiang plans to enlist half a million literacy teachers and enroll two million illiterates in classes. It will also open 2,000 new primary schools and 400 new middle schools this year. Honan does not promise a fixed date for ending illiteracy, but does plan this year to increase primary school enrolment by 20% and junior middle school enrolment by 85%. Every county in multi-national Manchuria (Mongol, Huang, Yao, and Miao tribes as well as Han Chinese) Kwangsi Province now has at least one middle school. A third of a million Chuang people have already learned to read the new language created for them by the Communist Government. This is a 32 letter Latin alphabet (the 26 letters of our alphabet plus six others) and was officially promulgated as recently as January of this year. However, at the time it was promulgated there were already a half million people studying it.

COLLECTIVIZED AGRICULTURE

The United States Department of Agriculture has a branch named Foreign Agricultural Service, and this Service publishes a monthly magazine entitled Foreign Agriculture. The December number has an article by Hughes H. Spurlock on the subject, Collectivized Agriculture in Communist China. He begins by pointing out that the movement though ostensibly

voluntary was in fact brought about by force.

Communists give four reasons for promoting collectivization. 1. The larger farm units permit the use of machinery and make possible other large scale economies. 2. Improved seeds and other supplies can be more easily made available to collective farms. 3. Improved technology can be put into use more expeditiously. 4. Collectives can undertake local reclamation projects which the individual could not do alone. He admits that this reasoning seems sound, but goes on to maintain that it does not give the real reasons for Communist emphasis on collective farms. Their real purpose is to bring the Chinese peasant more completely under the control of the government, so that agricultural surplus can be more easily siphoned off to help in the industrialization of the country. "The Chinese Communists are determined to build industry, and they intend to make the peasants pay the bill." But, he says, they have made the damaging mistake of "killing the individual peasant's initiative and destroying his pride in doing the best job possible. . . . As it is, China today is adopting a system of farming that has failed dismally in every country that has collectivized agriculture."

THE IRRIGATION CAMPAIGN

In the February 17 Bulletin we referred to the country-wide irrigation campaign going on in China. Later reports show still more remarkable accomplishments. On March 11, according to Peking, conservancy projects built since last October have provided irrigation for 14, 400, 000 hectares.

A news item from Hofei gives a more detailed report of accomplishments in Anhwei Province. There almost 600, 000 hectares have been given irrigation for the first time, a million more hectares have had their irrigation facilities improved, and a similar area has been freed from waterlogging. During the peak period of work, last November and December, "11 million people, 79% of the able-bodied people in the rural districts of Anhwei, were working daily on irrigation projects. The whole movement is directed by a main office set up in Hofei, the provincial capital. Under it are branch offices in every region, county, hsiang and co-operative farm. Reports on progress in every locality are sent daily by phone to the main office."

In Kansu, despite the lack of water sources and the hilly nature of the terrain, a half million hectares of land have been brought under irrigation.

CHURCH NEWS

A Reuters despatch of March 30 from Peking gives an account of the present situation of the Salvation Army there. Major Yin Huong-shun is in general charge of the work in 26 towns and cities of China and Mongolia. There is a Chinese membership of 2, 000. They have a ten piece band in Peking, but it plays only in their assembly hall, and no longer on street corners as formerly. The Army's income is derived from rentals and from donations. It is a part of the Three Self Movement.

Religious News Service for March 21 quoted from a letter reaching Hong Kong recently from a Catholic priest on the mainland. He reports a critically stepped up campaign of persecution against Catholics who stand out against the new patriotic association. For the past three months he and several fellow-priests had been undergoing two-hour brain-washing sessions daily. "This is enough to drive one mad. The papal encyclicals are dragged out, discussed and criticized. What is and what is not political or religious matter in the documents? In no time there is an uproar. Everyone is shouting, banging the table, stamping on the floor."

Another RNS communique announces the arrest in Shanghai of Mother Agnes Se, a Chinese Ursuline nun. The reason for the arrest was not stated.

In the June 10, 1957, Bulletin we referred to a biography in German of Dr. John Sung, I Johanna Lorch. I have now seen a copy of it, and can report that while in general it is based on L. T. Lyall's biography, there is still a certain amount of new material in it. As the author of Lyall's material has been supplemented by her own reminiscences.

GENERAL NEWS

Archaeological studies continue unabated in China today. Excavations are now going on at two sites near Sian, in a palace in which emperors of the Tang Dynasty conducted state affairs for over 200 years, and the other, 10 kilometers northwest of Sian, where the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to 8 A.D.), had its capital. On another site near Sian a settlement of the Western Chou Dynasty (1, 122-769 B.C.) has been discovered. In addition, large scale dredging in West Lake, Hangchow, has brought up thousands of relics from the bottom of the lake.